

The Children's University aims to:

- ▶ Increase the number of 'beyond the classroom' opportunities for children aged 5 and above
- ▶ Break down barriers to 'beyond the classroom' opportunities for children facing disadvantage
- ▶ Provide participants with increased levels of curiosity, confidence, and resilience to help them realise their aspirations
- ▶ Recognise and celebrate continuing participation, creating a sense of achievement and success
- ▶ Build partnerships that enables us to provide more opportunities to more children



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Parent and Carer Guide to the Children's University

Inspiring children to discover their potential



Introduction

We are delighted that your child has taken interest in becoming a member of Doncaster Children's University. We have provided the following information to help you and your child get the most from their involvement. It is important to remember that participation in Learning Activities must be voluntary, take place outside the normal school day and at a validated Learning Destination. We have compiled our most frequently asked questions to help you, but if in doubt please contact your school in the first instance, or one of our team. Our contact details are on the back page.



What is the Children's University?

The Children's University is a charitable trust who aims to develop a love of learning in children. We do this by encouraging and celebrating the participation of **5-14 year olds** in extracurricular activities in and outside of school.

Children are signed up to our new digital platform in which they collect stamp codes for each activity they participate in at Learning Destinations and where you can unlock additional information about the activities taken part in. Learning Destinations are the activity providers we work with and can include after school clubs, museums and galleries, sports clubs, community groups, plus many more.

Children receive a certificate of award upon reaching certain thresholds:

- **Bronze Award = 30 hours**
- **Silver Award = 65 hours**
- **Gold Award = 100 hours**

The certificates follow these increments up to **1000 hours**, meaning there are **30 certificates to collect in total**.

Those who reach the first Bronze award level will be invited the annual Graduation ceremony held at Doncaster College. The ceremony celebrates these achievements and children wear a traditional cap and gown while being presented with a certificate in front of their family and friends.

What is CU Online?

Children's University Online is a fun, safe and secure online space to record what your child is doing as part of the Children's University. Simply collect stamp codes and enter them online to add Learning Hours. The codes are unique to each activity and will show you the interests and skills your child is developing by taking part. Each child will have their own dashboard which will help them see how they're progressing towards the next award level. There are also online only exclusive badges that can be collected between graduations.

How do I get a stamp code?

Your child's school will issue a stamp code for any after school clubs your child attends. They may do this on a half termly basis. For visits to Learning Destinations, the activity provider will issue the stamp code.

How do I recommend an activity?

We are always on the lookout for new Learning Destinations. They can sign up directly by visiting the CU website **www.childrensuniversity.co.uk**. We will then be in touch to complete the validation.



Parent Ambassadors

Research shows that parental involvement has a significant effect on children's achievement and attainment throughout their years of schooling.

Parent Ambassadors are recruited within each school to help with the Children's University program. Training is given to enable the development of the necessary skills needed to collect information about local activities that are available to children. CU Ambassadors will create a network between themselves and collaborate on opportunities that are available within the wider community.

CU provides Parent Ambassadors incentives for their volunteering such as days out, small gifts and tickets to reward them for their time given to supporting children's learning.

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Ambassador, please contact us using the details on the back of the leaflet.